



April 4, 2011

Dear Connecticut Elected Official,

The Connecticut Coalition on Aging (CCOA), founded in 1974, is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all elders, especially those most vulnerable. An important facet of this mission is the administration of our annual survey of legislative issues. Following are the top five legislative priorities identified by the survey respondents. We hope that you will consider these priorities when you act on important issues affecting seniors in the General Assembly this year. For further information on the Connecticut Coalition on Aging go to our web site at www.coalitionagingct.org.

Results of the CT Coalition on Aging 2011 Legislative Survey

1. Health Care: Access to prescription drugs and reduction in drug costs. (60% of respondents)
2. Funding Needs: Improve property tax relief for seniors. (59% of respondents)
3. Aging and Disability: Improve funding for transportation services for seniors and adults with disabilities. (57% of respondents)
4. Health Care: Improve support for dental care. (55% of respondents)
5. Aging and Disability: Home and community-based programs and service expansions including adult day care. (49% of respondents)

The CT Coalition on Aging Annual Survey of State Legislative Issues generated a total of 842 responses from across the state. 72% of the people were over the age of 65, and the survey had three categories; Health Care, Aging & Disability Services and Funding Needs. In addition to the above responses the following comments and concerns were also noted:

- Less expensive health care costs for seniors
- Lack of mental health care for seniors
- At home living for seniors with physical disabilities instead of having to go to a nursing home to live
- Affordable long term care
- Provide respite for caregivers
- Way too many seniors are home alone and need a lifeline
- Affordable housing for the elderly
- Medicaid coverage for assisted living qualifiers
- Social Security cuts should not be cut, a real hardship for seniors on a fixed income
- Help for grandparents raising grandchildren
- Adult day centers provide an important long-term care alternative for seniors and need financial support
- Food is a huge issue, SNAP and pantries are not meeting all the needs
- Universal health care for all
- Continue funding of senior volunteer programs

Sincerely,

John F. Hogarth

President, CCOA Board of Directors

Director, Meriden Senior Citizens' Center

203.237.0066

jhogarth@ci.meriden.ct.us